



THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 14th June 2022 at
7:30pm in Thaxted Guildhall

Present: Councillors: A Frater (Chairman), T Frostick, V Knight, A Howells, R Barrington, J Perkins. A Wattebot, R Williams, J Spencer

Also Present:

Dena Ludford (Clerk & RFO)

P Neal and R Haynes from the NP working group and 3 members of the Public

21/22.997 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Alison Howells, Cllr Nick Weakley, Cllr Paul Flint

To record the acceptance of those absent

21/22.998 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr J Spencer declares a NPI in Planning item ii

21/22.999 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

The Chairman permits a speaker on behalf of the Scouts speak about Wellyboot wood in connection to fires being lit in the area. The suggestion from the fire officer who attended one such incident is to erect a fire pit to serve as a permanent solution to those wishing to have fires in the area. The Chairman suggests that this item is brought back to the agenda in July for a formal decision in relation to any decision making. The speaker talks about the construction such as hard surface concrete area and are in the process of looking at the materials and people who may offer help to construct.

21/22.1000 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

Regulation 18 of the local plan has been delayed, Cllr Taylor is aware of the reason and is unable to pass comment, it is extremely important that all who are involved are supplying the evidence is applied in a sound way to the developing local plan. We have 10 refugees in our area and should anyone wish to contribute and help support they would be most welcome.

Cllr Frostick asked if the shared prosperity fund that UDC were awarded £1million, however no Parish or Town Council have been informed about this and we would like to know how to access this. The District Councillors seem not to be aware of this.

Richard Haynes speaks about The Cutlers green solar farm, the position is it went to committee in January and councillors said they wanted more info, UDC planning officers have submitted it for the agenda for approval where most of the information which was requested at the last meeting is still missing. There is a moral obligation to grant us an extension of time and were told we would get notification in advance of the planning meeting which is next Wednesday. Richard is wondering if the Parish Council might have a letter written from our Lawyer regarding the application of the Rochdale envelope principle is inappropriate in this case and we require reasonable time to prepare our responses, Cllr Taylor is willing to include this in his address that the Parish Council are concerned. Cllr Wattebot asks if we can set aside some funds to take legal advice in relation to this matter. The Chairman asks if this idea takes favour, this is proposed by Cllr A Wattebot to set aside some funds for legal advice Cllr Barrington, seconds the proposal. -

21/22.1001 **REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED**

21/22.1002 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED To **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 2022

21/22.1003 **PLANNING**

I. UTT/22/1378/FUL

PROPOSAL: Conversion of the approved carport serving Plot 1 on approved scheme UTT/22/0461/FUL into a separate dwelling

LOCATION: Cutlers Green Farm Cutlers Green Lane

RESOLVED to **OBJECT** on the grounds of overdevelopment

II. UTT/22/1463/AV & UTT/22/1317/LB

PROPOSAL: To paint wording directly onto the fascia of the building.

LOCATION: 17 Town Street Thaxted

RESOLVED to **OBJECT** as text painted onto the wall of a Grade II* listed building is not really a particularly good idea. It diminishes the significance of the most important external features of the building, the carved coving beneath the windows.

III. UTT/22/1232/HHF

PROPOSAL: Erection of two storey extension (alterations to approved application UTT/15/0597/HHF)

LOCATION: 7 The Maypole Thaxted

RESOLVED to **OBJECT** on the grounds of overdevelopment

IV. UTT/22/1504/LB & UTT/22/1503/FUL

PROPOSAL: Proposed change of use from B1 Light Industrial (now E(G) to Sui Generis for Live/Work use of the barn including internal alterations.

LOCATION: Bluegates Farm Bardfield End Green

RESOLVED to **SUPPORT**

V. UTT/22/1307/FUL

PROPOSAL: Proposed demolition of all existing buildings and structures. Erection of 8 no. dwellings and associated amenity space, parking, landscaping and ancillary works (revised scheme to UTT/20/2624/FUL).

LOCATION: J F Knight Roadworks Ltd Copthall Lane

RESOLVED to **Object**

This is unsustainable and contrary to Policy S7. The NP has now emerged and been adopted so its policies are fully valid. It falls within Thaxted's 'RURAL SETTING' and is therefore contrary to Policy TX LSC 1. And increased access on an already congested entrance on to Bardfield road.

VI. UTT/22/1579/FUL

PROPOSAL: Erection of 3 no. dwellings and associated work

LOCATION: J F Knight Roadworks Ltd Copthall Lane

RESOLVED to **OBJECT** on the grounds that this is not sympathetically designed and unsustainable also contrary to Policy S7 and the access is unsuitable as detailed in past applications. Vehicular movements relating to the JF knights ltd business in the approved planning application UTT/20/2624/FUL the highways authority carried

out a balancing exercise regarding traffic generation and concluded the access on the Bardfield road was sufficient at that time for the 7 dwellings approved. Any increase in traffic from this site would therefore have to comply with highways conditions which led to the refusal of UTT/21/3262/FUL. is therefore contrary to Policy TX LSC 1.

VII. UTT/22/1619/FUL

PROPOSAL: 1 no. dwelling (revised scheme to UTT/20/3425/FUL approved at appeal ref APP/C1570/W/21/3278376) - addition of attic rooms.

LOCATION: Monk Street Stables Monk Street

RESOLVED to OBJECT

Monk Street Stables (UTT/22/1619/FUL) An application was originally refused and dismissed at appeal for four units on this site. An application for one unit was granted on appeal. The current application is for fairly minor changes to the consented scheme, however, the addition of attic rooms is contrary to the conditions set out in the original application.

21/22.1004 INSURANCE POLICY REVIEW & RENEWAL

- **RESOLVED To APPROVE** the new premium and insurance provider Aviva. To NOTE this is a single year policy
- **RESOLVED To APPROVE** the additional events policy for the lighting of the beacon and firework display

21/22.1005 AUDIT REPORT

To receive the internal auditors report and refer any action to the relevant committees for follow up.

i) **RESOLVED To APPROVE** the Annual Governance Statement

ii) **RESOLVED To APPROVE** the Accounting Statements

iii) **RESOLVED To APPROVE** the recent internal audit report and authorise the RFO to take any necessary actions as required

21/22.1006 JUBILEE FEEDBACK & LESSONS LEARNED

Cllr Perkins reports that this is the first time being involved in such an event and felt the event was a success, the learnings from this would be that we need to understand what is needed from the Parish Council. Cllr V Knight agrees that we were only 2 people on the Parish Council and the Fayre trust have also a handful of people who are delivering so the learning of this would be that we need more hands on deck to deliver an event of this magnitude. we also need to consider what we may need to do in the event of operation London Bridge and events which will inevitably follow. To close, the Chairman gave an expression of thanks to all involved, endorsed by all Councillors.

21/22.1007 STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

To **REVIEW** LTN 80 MEMBERS' CONDUCT AND THE REGISTRATION AND DISCLOSURE OF THEIR INTERESTS

21/22.1008 NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

Proposed by Cllr Frater andy seconded by Cllr Frostick unanimous

RESOLVED To review and **ADOPT** the LGA model code of conduct

21/22.1009 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Clerk and I went to the Police and crime commissioners' event and from there we were exposed to a useful day of talks and workshops, mainly focused on violence against women and girls, very thought provoking. They are planning to do another event soon.

I attended the Thaxted Area parish Meeting, the area is very large so not just Thaxted. Going back to the first point that Cllr Taylor raised in connection to the Local plan, we spent some time with the chief executive officer of UDC in connection to this, there is an indication that the big push on large settlements is not going

to take favour over smaller developments which are to be considered on merit. Cllr Frostick wonders why we as residents are being kept in the dark, Cllr Williams and I did raise this in the meeting and during the regulation 18 phase we will be more involved. Richard Haynes comments that there hasn't been a public local plan meeting in at least 5 months, they all seem to be closed meetings.

Thaxted specifically raised 5 questions. They were as follows:

1. If an official from planning is attending maybe the topic could be raised about having a conservation officer on the payroll at UDC?
2. Can UDC plan to host a scheduled meeting with a planning officer to privately discuss active planning breaches and enforcement as raised at our last Local Forum.
3. Holding to account developers over the states of roads after they vacate. E.g. Locally Wedow road
4. When might UDC begin to introduce EV Charging Points in line with its climate change action plan in Thaxted and further rural surrounding villages if requested (see action 32) what was the protocol for them being installed in saffron Walden/Stansted & Dunmow? The answer to this is the reason why others have them is they have only been installed in car parks Uttlesford own.
5. What is the current data in relation to Air Quality from the network of diffusion tubes, a fresh link to this was provided should anyone wish to see the results.

21/22.1010 CLERKS REPORT
See attached

21/22.1011 FINANCE

a) EMR's

To **NOTE** the EMR's
(See attached report)

b) TO REVIEW ONLINE PAYMENT FOR APPROVAL

RESOLVED To **SIGN** and **APPROVE** the online payments as detailed

c) UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO REVIEW & APPROVE THE FINANCE RISK MANAGEMENT DOCUMENT

The Chairman of the finance committee Cllr Frostick speaks about how each year we monitor the finances and how we monitor them.

d) GRANT APPLICATION & PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION

- I. ACRE (Via RCCE) welcomes new grant scheme for improving village halls (expression of interests submitted)
- II. Community Initiatives Fund 2022-2023 deadline 19th August – match fund £10,000 one application per year per organisation.
- III. Food support fund EALC £2,000 (£15 per box 80% families with children)

e) PROJECT IDEAS FOR APPROVED GRANT APPLICATIONS

- I. Outdoor Gym equipment – interested
- II. Village (Town) Warden – pending
- III. Wi-Fi controlled electric heaters in village halls (e.g. the Pavilion or BSH) eco Thaxted review
- IV. Solar roof panels (Pavilion or BSH) – interested
- V. EV charging points at our car parks or rec ground – interested

21/22.1012 DATE OF THE NEXT & future MEETINGS

- I. **RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** a mutually agreed start time for our future **FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS**, which will now be at the new time of 8pm* day to remain as Tuesday.

- II. To determine the length of time each **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** would usually be concluded in 90 minutes.
- III. The **DATE & TIME** of the next Council Meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th JULY 2022** at The Guildhall at (*as resolved in point i.) **8pm**

21/22.1013 *To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Administration to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the Public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government act 1972.*

21/22.1014 **LAND DISPUTE**

To Receive a verbal update on the Land Dispute at Levitt's Amenity Land site including an update from the chairman in relation to a recent meeting with the occupier.

21/22.1015 **DEVELOPERS MEETING**

To receive an update to include the views of the CLT in connection to a recent developer meeting ref Bolford Street. The CLT are minded to meet with the developer and will report back at the next meeting.